(b) the main criteria followed for installation of PCOs; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to install more PCOs in the State of Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) The number of PCOs functioning in the country are 468833 as on 30.10.1998. The details of PCOs working in North-East Region, Telecom District-wise are given in the enclosed Statement *(See* below).

(b) STD PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons having minimum qualifications of 10th pass for urban areas and 8th pass in rural areas. These are allotted on seniority basis by STD PCOs allotment committee constituted one for each Secondary Switching Area (SSA) comprising of two official members and one representative each of sitting Members of Parliament from the SSA. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(c) A target of 2000 PCOs has been fixed for the year 1998-99.

Statement

PCOs Working in North-East Region

SI. No	Name of Telecom District	No. of PCOs
1.	Kamrup	2019
2.	Tezpur	472
3.	Sibsagar	606
4.	Dibrugarh	516
5.	Silchar	428
6.	Nagaon Bongaigaon	331
7.	Arunachal Pradesh	343
8.		611
9.	Manipur	703
10.	Meghalya	522
11.	Mizoram	452
12.	Nagaland	537
13.	Tripura	585

Waiting List for Telephones

1289. SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons that have been waiting for telephone connections for the last six months in the country, district-wise and State-wise;

(b) by when the wait-list/backlog will be cleared;

(c) the number of villages that are there is in the country where teleph one facility is not available;

(d) whether the Department of Telecommunications are taking any steps to provide telephone facility in these villages; and

(e) by when this will be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House.

(c) to (e) As on 30.11.98, there were 295704 villages were telephone facility was not available. Steps are being taken to make the facility available in all the villages by the end of 9th Five Year Plan period subject to availability of adequate resources.

Ban on Entry of SAS Agents in Post Offices

1290. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether restrictions have been imposed on entry in post offices by Standard Agency Service (SAS) agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its impact on restricted sale of small saving schemes in post offices; and

(d) the steps proposed to boost sales of small saving schemes in post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir, Separate hours of business are fixed for agents to transact their business at post office for their own convenience.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Since Government is already making strenous efforts to encourage small savings, no new steps are proposed in this direction.

1291. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of places in Uttar Pradesh which have been connected by STD;

(b) what are their code numbers and pulse rates; and

(c) what are the names of places in the State which will be provided with STD facilities in the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) State of Uttar Pradesh is divided into UP (East) and UP (West) Telecom Circles. Information regarding names of places connected by STD and their code numbers for the UP (East) and UP (West) is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House. The pulse rates for STD calls are as follows:

Distance	Pulse Rate (Second)			
	Full	1/2	1/3	1/4
0-20 Kms.	180	180	180	180
21—35 Kms.	90	90	90	90
36—50 Kms.	36	48	48	48
51—100 Kms.	12	24	36	48
101—200 Kms.	8	16	24	36
201—500 Kms.	4	8	12	16
501—1000 Kms.	3	6	9	12
More than 1000 Kms.	2	4	6	8

(c) The places which are planned to be provided STD facility in the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000 in UP (East) Telecom Circle are as per Annexure 'A' and in UP (West) Telecom Circle are as per Annexure-'B/ subject to availability of materials on time. *[See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 36]*

Licencing Policy of Global Mobile Personal Communications Service

1292. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) .the licencing policy for Global Mobile Personal Communications Services in the country;

(b) the reasons for indifferent policy with Iridium India where arbitration is entirely in the hands of DoT; and

(c) the steps proposed to streamline the affairs to gain confidence of the private companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per policy approved by the Government, any Indian registered company having a foreign equity upto a maximum of 49% shall be eligible for grant of license for Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite